

149 S. 78th St. Visitation is from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday at the church.

ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the genocide of Armenians at the hands of the Ottoman Empire.

Starting in 1915, the Ottoman Empire tortured and murdered up to one and a half million Armenians. More than half a million were forced to leave and went into exile.

The Armenians settled across the world lending energy and strength to their adoptive communities.

It is important to recognize the historical atrocities perpetrated against the Armenians. We must teach our children about the fear, torture, mass graves, and expulsions of the Armenian people.

Through education and commemoration, our children can grow up to be better citizens and better Americans.

By recognizing genocide for what it is, the world can wake up to the obscene nature that sometimes grips nations and work to prevent the mass killing that devastated the Armenian people.

With this year's commemoration of the Armenian genocide, I urge all Americans to be vigilant and watchful. We must prevent hatred and bigotry. We must do all we can to prevent genocide. By commemorating the past, we can make the future a better place to live.

HONORING JACOB ANISH

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate ten-year-old Jacob Anish of Chicago for his recent act of bravery and for the honor of receiving the Heroism Medal awarded by the Boy Scouts of America.

Jacob achieved this accolade for the courage he demonstrated on the evening of May 21, 2003 when a fire broke out in his family's home. Awakened by the smoke, Jacob maintained his calm despite the danger all around him. At a time when many boys of Jacob's age might have panicked, his first thought was not to run for safety but to save his sleeping younger brother, Gary.

As the smoke thickened, Jacob swiftly found his brother, then lifted him up and carried him from one side of the house to the other. The house faded into darkness as Jacob fought through the danger to find the rest of his family.

Jacob did not hesitate, nor did he waver from the Anish family fire plan which called for him to carry his younger brother to the neighbor's house and out of harm's reach. He maintained his composure throughout the fire like a young hero and natural leader.

Though their home was lost, Jacob's steadfast courage and sharp instinct made the difference in saving each of his family members,

including their pet Dalmatian. Jacob's selfless act of valor is why the Boy Scouts of America are honoring him this year.

Mr. Speaker, I join his family, his Cub Scout Pack 3943, and all the people of the fifth district of Illinois in recognizing Jacob for his courage and for receiving the Heroism Medal. I am confident that Jacob will continue to set a strong example for his brothers and sisters, his peers, and young men and women across Chicago. I am very proud of Jacob Anish.

HONORING THE LATE KEITH CYLAR

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the late Keith Cylar, a fearless, passionate and extraordinarily effective advocate for persons with AIDS. Keith Cylar dedicated his life to the health and well-being of the most underprivileged and neglected elements of our society, and his passing at the age of 45 is a terrible loss to the city of New York and indeed to the entire Nation.

A social worker by training, Keith Cylar was the co-founder and co-President of Housing Works, one of the largest and most prominent non-profit organizations in the Nation dedicated to helping persons with AIDS. Through his leadership at Housing Works, Mr. Cylar helped to find housing for 15,000 New Yorkers. He also oversaw and managed the delivery of social services, such as job training and health care referrals, to thousands of our most underprivileged citizens, who often had few other resources upon which to draw.

Keith Cylar was also a leader of uncommon courage, an advocate who never hesitated to speak truth to power. Out of the fiery passions that drove the AIDS activist group ACT-UP, he and his partner Charles King forged a new kind of social service agency, one managed and operated by people who themselves were battling AIDS and HIV. Ultimately Keith Cylar helped transform Housing Works into one of the Nation's premier agencies providing housing to those afflicted by the AIDS epidemic. He accomplished this with caring and compassion, balancing a practical business acumen with a passionate advocacy that sometimes could be confrontational and uncomfortable for elected officials and bureaucrats alike. Indeed, because of the many demonstrations to protect City funding for programs serving people with AIDS that were organized in part by Housing Works, part of Park Row by New York's City Hall is still officially recognized to this day as "People with AIDS Way." Passionate and uncompromising in his advocacy for the underprivileged and afflicted, Keith Cylar never wavered from his mission or failed to deliver for the clients who counted on him and Housing Works.

Because of his notable achievements on behalf of those battling disease and poverty and his indomitable and distinctive presence, Keith Cylar's spirit and determination have inspired us all. I ask my colleagues to join me in saluting his remarkable life and career, and recognizing him as a great American.

GUARDSMAN AND RESERVISTS FINANCIAL RELIEF ACT OF 2003

HON. RAUL M. GRIJALVA

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 27, 2004

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, the passage of H.R. 1779 is a welcome first step in addressing the serious problems facing our National Guard and Reserve today. But as we once again mobilize more troops and send them off to fight, and possibly die, in an increasingly hostile environment, we must ask ourselves why legislation such as H.R. 1779 has become a necessary stopgap measure.

The very fact that Guard and Reserve members feel compelled to withdraw funds from their IRA's in order to pay the bills at home is unacceptable.

Yet, this is precisely the problem: Current compensation and benefits programs for the National Guard and Reserve were developed more than 50 years ago, when it was expected that they would be mobilized only in the most dire national emergency. Over the past dozen years, the Guard and Reserve contract has changed dramatically, with more than 40 percent of members being called to duty and in some cases, being repeatedly deployed without fulfilling the requisite off-duty time period. H.R. 1799 is a band-aid measure temporarily mending a broken system. Congress must and can upgrade Guard and Reserve compensation and benefits to better offset the demands and sacrifices imposed on the Guard and Reserve community.

It is a great injustice that those who selflessly and voluntarily serve our country are not repaid in kind. By this I mean that Guard and Reserve members are ineligible for military health coverage, except while on active duty or after age 60. Although covered by TRICARE when mobilized, many Guard and Reservists and their families are faced with changing doctors and dropping private coverage. We must provide adequate and comprehensive health care coverage for the Guard and Reserve community. It is my hope that this year's Defense Authorization Act will include permanent authority for a fee-based TRICARE coverage for all drilling Guard and Reserve members, and offer all such members the option to have the government pay part or all of their employer coverage premium during extended activations.

Loan forgiveness and increased education infrastructure funding for Guard and Reservists and their families should also be a top priority during this year's budget deliberations. Earlier this year, I received a letter from one of my constituents and his wife who are both Guard Members. Both were more than willing to serve their first tour of duty in Iraq, knowing full well that this would delay by a semester their graduate course studies. Six months later, both were facing yet another extension of active duty. Along with delaying their studies and future career path, they are now also incurring interest on a loan which is not being utilized. Congress must improve educational opportunities and benefits for Guard and Reservists by providing deferments and interest payments for borrowers of student loans who are called to active duty.

Health care, timely compensation, and education funding are only a few of the many